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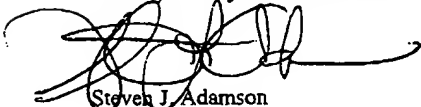
Message:

Dear Examiner Lobo -

In response to the Advisory Action mailed April 16, 2003, and our telephone conference of this morning, attached please find allowed claims 24-40 written in the format requested in Item 10.

Please let me know if this submission is acceptable to you, and if not, what alternative format should be pursued.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.


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As requested, below please find reissue claims 24-40 underlined in their entirety, without bracketed deletions and with appropriate parenthetical expressions ("amended", "twice amended," etc.), pursuant to 37 CFR 1.173(b).

24 (twice amended). An acoustic energy transmitting apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of electro-acoustic transducer elements arranged in an M row by N column array, where M and N are positive integers and at least one of M and N is greater than one;

control circuit for propagating row and column control signals for each of said M rows and said N columns, each control signal having a frequency and a phase component; and

wherein each transducer element is configured to function as an active device so as to achieve a combining at each transducer element of the frequency and phase components of the row and column control signals for that transducer element in such a manner as to provide a focused acoustic signal at a given focal distance and direction from said array.

25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the electric signal to acoustic signal relationship and vice versa of each transducer element is non-linear.

26 (amended). The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said control circuit includes a control channel for each of said M rows and a control channel for each of said N columns, and wherein the number of control channels is fewer than the number of transducer elements.

27. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said control circuit is configured such that the row and column signals for at least some of the transducer elements includes a coded signal.

28 (amended). The apparatus of claim 27, wherein M equals one.

29 (amended). An acoustic energy transmitting apparatus, comprising:

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combination of the modified electrical receive signals from all of said plurality of transducer elements; and

a filter that filters spurious frequencies output from the transducer elements;

wherein said transducer elements, control circuit and filter are configured to achieve focused acoustic signal reception at a given distance and direction from said array.

31. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said transducer elements and said control circuit are configured to achieve dynamic focused acoustic signal reception.

32. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the electric signal to acoustic signal relationship and vice versa of each transducer element is non-linear.

33 (amended). The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said filter includes a matched filter.

34. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein said matched filter includes a conjugate of a coded signal.

35 (amended). The apparatus of claim 29, wherein M equals one.

36 (twice amended). The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a circuit that generates image data from the coherent combination of transducer element receive signals.

37 (amended). The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said control circuit includes a control channel for each of said M rows and a control channel for each of said N columns, and wherein the number of control channels is fewer than the number of transducer elements.

38. An acoustic energy receiving apparatus, comprising:
a plurality of electro-acoustic transducer elements each capable of generating an electrical receive signal in response to an incident

acoustic wave and arranged in an M row by N column array, where M and N are positive integers and at least one of M and N is greater than one;

control circuit for propagating row and column control signals for each of said M rows and said N columns, the control signal for each transducer element being a combination of the row and column control signals for that transducer element;

wherein said row and column control signals are configured, for each transducer element, such that when combined with the electrical receive signal of that transducer element the electrical receive signal is modified in such a manner as to permit the simultaneous processing of the modified electrical receive signals from said plurality of transducer elements;

a first circuit that combines the modified electrical receive signals of each of said transducer elements to form an array output signal; and

a second circuit coupled to said first circuit that generates image data from said array output signal.

39. The apparatus of claim 38, wherein M equals one.

40. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein each transducer element includes non-linear electro-acoustic material.